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Summary Data from the Consumer Price Index News Release December 2003

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group (1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

	CPI-U				CPI-W			
	Unadjusted indexes	Unadjusted percent change to Dec. 2003 from-		Seasonally adjusted percent change from-	Unadjusted indexes	Unadjusted percent change to Dec. 2003 from-		Seasonally adjusted percent change from-
	Dec. 2003	Dec. 2002	Nov. 2003	Nov. to Dec.	Dec. 2003	Dec. 2002	Nov. 2003	Nov. to Dec.
Expenditure category								
All items	184.3	1.9	-0.1	0.2	179.9	1.6	-0.2	0.2
All items (1967=100)	552.1	-	-	-	536.0	-	-	-
Food and beverages	184.1	3.5	.7	.6	183.6	3.7	.7	.5
Food	183.6	3.6	.7	.6	183.1	3.7	.7	.6
Food at home	184.1	4.5	.9	.8	183.3	4.7	.9	.8
Cereals and bakery products	202.9	2.8	.2	.2	202.9	2.9	.2	.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	181.1	11.5	1.0	1.1	181.0	11.5	1.0	1.2
Dairy and related products [1]	173.0	3.4	1.1	1.1	172.7	3.3	1.0	1.0
Fruits and vegetables	232.4	3.3	2.2	.3	229.7	3.1	2.0	.2
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	139.3	-.4	1.0	1.7	138.6	-.4	.9	1.5
Other food at home	163.0	1.2	.6	.7	162.5	1.2	.6	.7
Sugar and sweets	161.0	1.2	-.6	-.7	160.5	1.0	-.6	-.9
Fats and oils	157.7	3.2	.3	.8	157.7	3.1	.3	.6
Other foods	179.6	.8	1.0	1.1	180.0	.8	1.0	1.1
Other miscellaneous foods [1] [2]	109.8	-.4	.7	.7	110.3	-.4	.7	.7
Food away from home [1]	184.3	2.3	.3	.3	184.2	2.3	.3	.3
Other food away from home [2]	122.9	2.6	.2	.4	123.1	2.5	.2	.4
Alcoholic beverages	188.7	2.1	.1	.3	188.9	2.3	.1	.2
Housing	185.1	2.2	.0	.3	181.0	2.3	.1	.3
Shelter	214.1	2.2	.0	.3	208.2	2.1	.0	.2
Rent of primary residence [3]	207.9	2.7	.2	.2	207.0	2.5	.2	.2
Lodging away from home [2] [3]	112.9	3.4	-1.8	1.7	113.4	3.5	-2.4	1.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence [3] [4]	222.2	2.6	.1	.1	221.7	1.9	.1	.1
Tenants' and household insurance [1] [2]	114.3	1.8	.0	.0	114.4	1.9	.0	.0
Fuels and utilities	153.6	6.5	.5	.5	153.0	6.6	.5	.5
Fuels	136.5	7.1	.6	.6	135.4	7.1	.5	.6
Fuel oil and other fuels	137.0	9.1	1.6	-.4	136.2	9.0	1.3	-.6
Gas (piped) and electricity [3]	143.3	6.9	.5	.6	142.5	7.0	.4	.6
Household furnishings and operations	124.7	-1.8	-.2	.2	120.4	-2.1	-.2	.1
Apparel	119.0	-2.1	-3.3	-.4	118.7	-1.8	-3.2	-.2
Men's and boys' apparel	118.0	-1.1	-2.8	-.2	117.8	-.8	-2.7	-.1
Women's and girls' apparel	110.9	-1.9	-4.1	-.4	110.5	-1.6	-4.2	-.4
Infants' and toddlers' apparel	119.2	-4.9	-3.1	-1.6	121.4	-4.6	-2.9	-1.1
Footwear	118.5	-1.8	-2.1	-.3	117.8	-2.5	-2.2	-.4
Transportation	154.7	.3	-.6	-.2	152.5	-.3	-.7	-.3
Private transportation	150.8	.3	-.6	-.1	149.7	-.5	-.7	-.2
New and used motor vehicles [2]	96.4	-4.4	-.2	-.4	92.8	-5.8	-.3	-.4
New vehicles	138.0	-1.8	.4	.0	139.2	-1.8	.4	-.1
Used cars and trucks	171.0	-11.8	-.8	-.7	131.7	-11.8	-.8	-.6
Motor fuel	127.8	6.8	-2.6	-.2	128.1	6.8	-2.6	-.2
Gasoline (all types)	127.2	6.8	-2.6	-.1	127.6	6.9	-2.5	-.2
Motor vehicle parts and equipment [1]	107.7	.7	-.2	-.2	107.3	.9	-.2	-.2
Motor vehicle maintenance and repair	198.0	2.4	.4	.6	199.8	2.5	.5	.7
Public transportation	205.6	1.3	-1.1	-1.1	203.6	2.2	-1.1	-1.1
Medical care	302.1	3.7	.4	.6	301.4	3.7	.4	.6
Medical care commodities	265.0	2.1	.4	.4	259.4	2.1	.3	.4
Medical care services	311.9	4.2	.4	.6	311.9	4.1	.4	.6
Professional services [1]	264.1	2.8	.4	.5	264.5	2.8	.5	.6
Hospital and related services [3]	407.0	6.4	.3	.6	403.4	6.4	.2	.4
Recreation [2]	107.7	1.1	-.1	.0	105.5	.0	-.1	-.1
Video and audio [2]	103.3	.1	-.5	-.3	102.5	.1	-.5	-.3
Education and communication [2]	110.9	1.6	.1	.4	109.7	.8	.1	.3
Education [2]	139.4	7.2	.3	.7	138.4	6.7	.3	.7
Educational books and supplies	342.8	6.0	2.0	2.6	343.8	5.9	1.9	2.2
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare	401.7	.4	.1	.5	390.7	6.7	.1	.5
Communication [2]	88.2	-3.9	.0	.0	89.7	-3.8	-.1	-.1
Information and information processing [1] [2]	86.2	-4.2	.0	.0	88.3	-4.0	-.1	-.1
Telephone services [2]	97.2	-2.7	.0	.0	97.4	-2.7	.0	.0
Information and information processing other than telephone services [1] [5]	15.3	-11.0	-.6	-.6	15.8	-11.2	-.6	-.6
Personal computers and peripheral equipment [1] [2]	16.2	-17.8	-.6	-.6	15.9	-17.6	-.6	-.6
Other goods and services	380.2	1.5	.1	.1	388.1	1.0	.1	.1
Tobacco and smoking products [1]	470.4	-.4	.3	.3	471.5	-.4	.3	.3
Personal care [1]	179.0	2.1	.0	.0	177.8	1.8	.1	.1
Personal care products [1]	153.4	.0	.1	.1	154.0	-.1	.1	.1
Personal care services [1]	194.3	2.3	.1	.1	194.9	2.2	.1	.1
Miscellaneous personal services	287.1	3.7	.8	.1	286.6	3.6	.0	.2
Commodity and service group								
Commodities	150.6	.5	-.3	.1	150.7	.3	-.4	.1
Food and beverages	184.1	3.5	.7	.6	183.6	3.7	.7	.5
Commodities less food and beverages	131.7	-1.4	-.9	-.2	132.5	-1.9	-1.0	-.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	146.7	1.0	-1.5	.5	149.0	1.2	-1.6	.7
Apparel	119.0	-2.1	-3.3	-.4	118.7	-1.8	-3.2	-.2
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	167.7	2.3	-.8	-.2	173.3	2.5	-.9	-.1
Durables	115.0	-4.3	-.1	-.2	114.0	-5.3	-.2	-.4
Services	217.9	2.8	.0	.2	214.2	2.8	.0	.2
Rent of shelter [4]	222.9	3.2	.0	.2	220.6	3.3	.0	.2
Transportation services	217.7	2.7	-.4	-.3	218.0	3.0	-.4	-.2
Other services	257.4	2.9	.0	.2	250.9	3.4	.1	.2
Special indexes								
All items less food	184.4	1.5	-.3	.2	179.2	1.2	-.3	.1
All items less shelter	174.7	1.7	-.1	.2	171.6	1.5	-.2	.2
All items less medical care	178.2	1.8	-.2	.2	174.7	1.5	-.2	.2
Commodities less food	133.8	-1.3	-.9	-.1	134.5	-1.7	-1.0	-.1
Nondurables less food	149.2	1.1	-1.4	.5	151.4	1.2	-1.5	.7
Nondurables less food and apparel	168.8	2.3	-.7	.0	172.1	2.4	-.9	.1
Nondurables	165.4	2.4	-.6	.5	166.6	2.5	-.4	.6
Services less rent of shelter [4]	228.4	3.6	.1	.2	202.9	3.6	.1	.2
Services less medical care services	209.9	2.7	.0	.1	206.6	2.7	.0	.1
Energy	131.8	6.9	-1.0	.2	131.1	6.9	-1.0	.2
All items less energy	191.5	1.5	.1	.2	186.9	1.2	.1	.2
All items less food and energy	193.6	1.1	.2	.1	188.0	.7	.2	.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	139.0	-2.5	.6	-.1	138.7	-3.1	.7	-.1
Energy commodities	129.0	6.9	-2.3	-.2	129.0	6.9	-2.3	-.2
Services less energy services	225.5	2.6	.0	.2	222.1	2.5	.0	.2
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1982-84=$1.00)	$ .543	-	-	-	$ .556	-	-	-
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1967=$1.00)	$ .181	-	-	-	$ .187	-	-	-

[1] Not seasonally adjusted.
[2] Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
[3] This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.
[4] U-population indexes on a December 1982=100 base;
W-population indexes on a December 1984=100 base.
[5] Indexes on a December 1988=100 base.
- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 1A. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

	CPI-U			CPI-W		
	Annual average 2002	Annual average 2003	Percent change from 2002 to 2003	Annual average 2002	Annual average 2003	Percent change from 2002 to 2003
Expenditure category						
All items	179.9	184.0	2.3	175.9	179.8	2.2
All items (1967=100)	538.8	551.1	-	523.9	535.6	-
Food and beverages	176.8	180.5	2.1	176.1	179.9	2.2
Food	176.2	180.0	2.2	175.5	179.4	2.2
Food at home	175.6	179.4	2.2	174.7	178.5	2.2
Cereals and bakery products	198.0	202.8	2.4	198.0	202.8	2.4
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	162.1	169.3	4.4	162.0	169.2	4.4
Dairy and related products	168.1	167.9	-.1	167.9	167.6	-.2
Fruits and vegetables	220.9	225.9	2.3	219.6	224.3	2.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	139.2	139.8	.4	138.6	139.1	.4
Other food at home	160.8	162.6	1.1	160.4	162.2	1.1
Sugar and sweets	159.0	162.0	1.9	158.8	161.6	1.8
Fats and oils	155.4	157.4	1.3	155.3	157.6	1.4
Other foods	177.1	178.8	1.0	177.6	179.2	.9
Other miscellaneous foods [1]	109.2	110.3	1.0	109.7	110.8	1.0
Food away from home	178.3	182.1	2.1	178.2	182.0	2.1
Other food away from home [1]	117.7	121.3	3.1	118.1	121.5	2.9
Alcoholic beverages	183.6	187.2	2.0	183.3	187.1	2.1
Housing	180.3	184.8	2.5	175.7	180.4	2.7
Shelter	208.1	213.1	2.4	201.9	206.9	2.5
Rent of primary residence [2]	199.7	205.5	2.9	199.0	204.7	2.9
Lodging away from home [1 2]	118.3	119.3	.8	118.4	119.8	1.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence [2 3]	214.7	219.9	2.4	195.1	199.7	2.4
Tenants' and household insurance [1]	108.7	114.8	5.6	108.7	114.7	5.5
Fuels and utilities	143.6	154.5	7.6	142.9	153.9	7.7
Fuels	127.2	138.2	8.6	126.1	137.0	8.6
Fuel oil and other fuels	115.5	139.5	20.8	115.0	138.7	20.6
Gas (piped) and electricity [2]	134.4	145.0	7.9	133.4	144.1	8.0
Household furnishings and operations	128.3	126.1	-1.7	124.4	121.9	-2.0
Apparel	124.0	120.9	-2.5	123.1	120.0	-2.5
Men's and boys' apparel	121.7	118.0	-3.0	121.7	117.5	-3.5
Women's and girls' apparel	115.8	113.1	-2.3	114.6	112.1	-2.2
Infants' and toddlers' apparel	126.4	122.1	-3.4	130.6	126.1	-3.5
Footwear	121.4	119.6	-1.5	121.2	119.1	-1.7
Transportation	152.9	157.6	3.1	151.8	156.3	3.0
Private transportation	148.8	153.6	3.2	149.0	153.5	3.0
New and used motor vehicles [1]	99.2	96.5	-2.7	99.4	96.0	-3.4
New vehicles	140.0	137.3	-1.9	141.1	139.0	-1.5
Used cars and trucks	152.0	142.9	-6.0	153.8	143.7	-6.0
Motor fuel	116.4	135.8	16.5	117.0	136.1	16.3
Gasoline (all types)	116.0	135.1	16.5	116.4	135.6	16.4
Motor vehicle parts and equipment	106.9	107.0	.0	106.1	107.3	1.1
Motor vehicle maintenance and repair	190.2	195.6	2.8	191.7	197.3	2.9
Public transportation	207.4	209.3	.9	202.6	206.0	1.7
Medical care	285.6	297.1	4.0	284.6	296.3	4.1
Medical care commodities	254.4	262.8	3.3	251.1	257.4	2.5
Medical care services	292.9	306.0	4.5	292.5	305.9	4.6
Professional services [2]	253.9	261.2	2.9	256.0	263.4	2.9
Hospital and related services [2]	367.8	394.8	7.3	363.2	391.2	7.7
Recreation [1]	106.2	107.5	1.2	104.6	105.5	.9
Video and audio [1]	102.8	103.4	.8	102.0	102.9	.9
Education and communication [1]	107.9	109.8	1.8	107.6	109.0	1.3
Education [1]	126.0	134.4	6.7	125.9	133.8	6.3
Educational books and supplies	317.6	335.6	5.4	318.5	336.5	5.7
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare	362.1	386.7	6.8	354.8	377.3	6.3
Communication [1]	92.3	89.7	-2.8	93.7	91.2	-2.7
Information and information processing [1]	90.8	87.8	-3.3	92.7	89.9	-3.0
Telephone services [1]	99.7	98.3	-1.4	99.9	98.5	-1.4
Information and information processing other than telephone services [4]	19.3	16.1	-12.0	19.0	16.7	-12.1
Personal computers and peripheral equipment [1]	22.2	17.6	-20.7	21.9	17.3	-20.6
Other goods and services	293.2	298.7	1.9	302.8	307.0	1.7
Tobacco and smoking products	461.5	469.0	1.6	463.2	470.5	1.6
Personal care	174.7	178.0	1.9	174.1	177.0	1.7
Personal care products	154.7	153.5	-.8	155.5	154.2	-.8
Personal care services	188.4	193.2	2.5	189.1	193.9	2.5
Miscellaneous personal services	276.4	283.5	3.3	276.0	283.3	3.4
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	149.7	151.2	1.0	150.4	151.8	.9
Food and beverages	176.8	180.5	2.1	176.1	179.9	2.2
Commodities less food and beverages	134.2	134.5	.2	135.5	135.8	.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	145.1	149.7	3.2	147.0	152.1	3.5
Apparel	124.0	120.9	-2.5	123.1	120.0	-2.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	163.2	171.5	5.7	165.3	175.6	6.2
Durables	121.4	117.5	-3.2	121.0	117.4	-3.0
Services	209.8	214.5	2.2	205.9	212.6	3.3
Rent of shelter [3]	216.7	221.9	2.4	194.5	199.2	2.4
Transportation services	209.1	216.3	3.4	207.7	216.2	4.1
Other services	246.4	254.4	3.2	241.6	248.5	2.9
Special indexes						
All items less food	180.5	184.7	2.3	175.9	179.7	2.2
All items less shelter	170.8	174.6	2.2	168.3	171.9	2.1
All items less medical care	174.3	178.1	2.2	171.1	174.8	2.2
Commodities less food	136.0	136.5	.4	137.3	137.7	.3
Nondurables less food	147.4	151.9	3.1	149.2	154.2	3.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	163.3	172.1	5.4	166.1	175.9	5.9
Nondurables	161.1	165.3	2.6	161.9	166.4	2.8
Services less rent of shelter [3]	217.5	226.4	4.1	193.1	201.3	4.2
Services less medical care services	202.5	208.7	3.1	198.9	205.2	3.2
Energy	121.7	136.5	12.2	120.9	135.9	12.4
All items less energy	187.7	190.6	1.5	183.6	186.1	1.4
All items less food and energy	190.5	193.2	1.4	185.6	187.9	1.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	143.7	140.9	-1.9	144.4	141.1	-2.3
Energy commodities	117.1	134.7	14.7	117.3	136.8	16.6
Services less energy services	217.5	223.8	2.9	213.9	220.2	2.9
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1982-84=$1.00)	$ .556	$ .544	-	$ .569	$ .556	-
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1967=$1.00)	$ .186	$ .182	-	$ .191	$ .187	-

[1] Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
[2] This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.
[3] U-population indexes on a December 1982=100 base; W-population indexes on a December 1984=100 base.
[4] Indexes on a December 1988=100 base.
- Data not available.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Selected areas, all items index

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Area	All items							
	CPI-U				CPI-W			
	Indexes			Percent change to Dec.2003 from-	Indexes			Percent change to Dec.2003 from-
	Oct. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Dec. 2002	Oct. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Dec. 2002
U.S. city average	185.0	184.5	184.3	1.9	180.7	180.2	179.9	1.6
Region and area size[1]								
Northeast urban	195.4	195.1	194.9	2.8	192.1	191.9	191.7	2.7
Size A - More than 1,500,000	197.7	197.3	197.1	3.0	193.2	192.8	192.7	3.0
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 [2]	115.2	115.3	115.0	2.1	115.3	115.4	115.2	2.2
Midwest urban	179.1	178.9	178.4	1.7	174.1	173.9	173.4	1.4
Size A - More than 1,500,000	181.7	181.4	180.9	1.7	176.0	175.7	175.1	1.6
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 [2]	113.6	113.6	113.3	1.7	112.7	112.7	112.6	1.3
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	171.8	171.4	171.5	1.2	169.3	169.1	169.1	1.1
South urban	178.1	177.5	177.5	1.7	174.9	174.3	174.2	1.3
Size A - More than 1,500,000	180.1	179.1	179.2	1.9	177.3	176.4	176.4	1.9
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 [2]	113.6	113.3	113.3	1.5	112.1	111.9	111.8	.9
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	175.6	175.4	175.1	1.6	174.8	174.5	174.2	.9
West urban	189.4	188.5	188.3	1.5	184.4	183.5	183.3	1.4
Size A - More than 1,500,000	191.9	191.0	190.6	1.4	185.4	184.4	183.9	1.3
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 [2]	115.5	114.9	115.2	1.9	115.0	114.6	114.8	1.7
Size classes								
A [3]	169.5	168.9	168.7	2.0	167.7	167.1	166.8	1.9
B/C [2]	114.1	113.9	113.8	1.7	113.2	113.0	112.9	1.3
D	176.9	176.6	176.5	1.6	174.9	174.5	174.3	1.0
Selected local areas[4]								
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI	185.8	185.6	185.5	1.7	179.1	179.1	178.8	1.6
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA	187.8	187.1	187.0	1.8	181.2	180.5	180.2	2.0
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA	200.8	199.4	199.3	3.2	195.2	194.7	194.6	3.1
Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT	-	206.5	-	-	-	205.6	-	-
Cleveland-Akron, OH	-	177.6	-	-	-	168.3	-	-
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	-	175.9	-	-	-	177.6	-	-
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV [5]	-	116.7	-	-	-	116.1	-	-
Atlanta, GA	180.1	-	179.0	1.0	177.6	-	176.6	1.1
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI	183.3	-	181.3	.9	178.2	-	175.9	.9
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	166.1	-	166.1	2.7	166.0	-	162.2	2.7
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL	181.6	-	181.6	2.1	179.0	-	178.9	2.1
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD	190.3	-	189.0	2.0	190.2	-	189.0	2.2
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	196.3	-	195.3	1.1	191.9	-	191.1	.8
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA	193.7	-	191.0	.5	187.8	-	185.3	.4

[1] Regions defined as the four Census regions.
[2] Indexes on a December 1996=100 base.
[3] Indexes on a December 1986=100 base.
[4] In addition, the following metropolitan areas are published semiannually and appear in Tables 34 and 39 of the January and July issues of the CPI Detailed Report: Anchorage, AK; Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN; Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO; Honolulu, HI; Kansas City, MO-KS; Milwaukee-Racine, WI; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; Phoenix-Mesa, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland-Salem, OR-WA; St. Louis, MO-IL; San Diego, CA; Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL.
[5] Indexes on a November 1996=100 base.
- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

NOTE: Local area indexes are byproducts of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in their escalator clauses.

CPI For All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)-Analysis

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI-U increased 0.2 percent in December, following a decline of 0.2 percent in November. The index for food rose 0.6 percent in December with prices for food at home up 0.8 percent, reflecting, in part, another large increase in beef prices. Energy costs rose 0.2 percent in December, following a 3.0 percent drop in November. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.1 percent in December, compared with a 0.1 percent decrease in November. Shelter costs, which were unchanged in November, increased 0.3 percent in December.

NEXT CPI RELEASE: JANUARY DATA ON FEBRUARY 20, 2004 8:30AM (EST); TRY OUR CPI QUICKLINE: 202-691-6994

For change of address, please include old mailing label and write to: I&C Address Change, Room 2860 PSB, BLS, Washington, DC 20212

Recalculated Seasonally Adjusted Indexes to be Available on February 18, 2004

Each year with the release of the January CPI, seasonal adjustment factors are recalculated to reflect price movements from the just-completed calendar year. This routine annual recalculation may result in revisions to seasonally adjusted indexes for the previous 5 years. BLS will make available recalculated seasonally adjusted factors, for the period January 1999 Through December 2003, on Wednesday, February 18, 2004. This date is two working working days before the scheduled release of the January 2004 CPI on Friday, February 20, 2004. The revised indexes and seasonal factors will be available on the Internet. The address is http://www.bls.gov/cpi. Look under tables Created by BLS and select Revised Seasonally Adjusted Data, 2003.

For further information please contact Dan Chow or Jeff Wilson on (202) 691-6968.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a market basket of goods and services. CPIs are published for two population groups: 1) The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which covers 32 percent of the total population, and 2) the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Chained CPI for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U), which each cover about 87 percent of the total population. While the CPI-U and CPI-W are considered final when released, the C-CPI-U is issued in preliminary form and is subject to two annual revisions. The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, transportation, medical care, and other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in 87 locations are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. *Indexes for different months are usually compared in relative terms. Thus, an index of 133.5 is 1.063 times higher than an index of 125.6 (133.5/125.6=1.063); in other words, prices increased 6.3 percent.* The CPI is used as an indicator of inflation, a deflator of other economic series, and an escalator for income payments.

More detail. This news release from the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor provides summary data from the Consumer Price Index. The full release is available electronically on the Internet at **http://www.bls.gov/cpi/** at release time. If you have any questions about the CPI, please write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, Room 3615 PSB, Washington, DC 20212, or call (202) 691-7000. Full detail is available in the monthly periodical ***CPI Detailed Report*** for $47 per year from New Orders, Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339. For a recorded message of summary CPI data, call (202) 691-5200.

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